clad of the Civil War. Officials disclosed ... of Navy landing craft. (AP Wirephoto)

Col. Dispatch 5-5-67

Ohio Tells Louisiana to Spell Out All Charges in Novel Extradition

If New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrision wants to question Gordon Novel about the assassination of President Kennedy he should say so in an extradition request, Ohio has told Louisiana officials.

Garrision has described Novel, a 29-year-old former New Orleans night club operatior, as a material witness in his investigation of the assassination.

BUT LOUISIANA'S attempts to extradite Novel have been on a charge of conspiracy to burglarize explosives at Houma, La., in 1961.

Gov. James A. Rhodes' office returned the extradition request to Lousiana Gov. John J. McKeithen April 21 on grounds of insufficient material.

Three days later, Rhodes' top aide John M. McElroy said in a letter to McKeithen that Louisiana should make clear what Novel is wanted for.

McELROY SAID that Ohio assumed Novel would be subject to the Out-of-State Witness Act, a multi-state agreement signed by both Ohio and Louisiana.

If Novel was returned because of the burglary case, McElroy said, Louisiana would have to grant him immunity from prosecution in any other case.

"I have never heard of anything like this before," Garrison said when Ohio's stand was made public Thursday. "The obstacles they have put in front of us are amazing."

McELROY RESPONDED, "They should have no difficulty making the correct extradition request." He said he has heard nothing from New Orleans or Louisiana officials for several days.

Rhodes, who is in New York for the rest of the week, has approved of the latest request to Louisiana, McElroy said.

Novel, free on $10,000 bond here, was arrested April 1 in Gahanna.